

# The Colored American

Published by THE COLORED AMERICAN Publishing Company.

## A NATIONAL NEGRO NEWSPAPER

Published every Saturday at 459 C St. N. W. Washington, D. C.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One year	-	-	\$2.00
Six months	-	-	1.10
Three months	-	-	.60

INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

Subscriptions may be sent by postoffice money order, express or by registered letter. All communications for publication should be accompanied with the name of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send or instructions.

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### ADVERTISING RATES.

Reading notices 50 cents per line. Display advertisements, \$2 per square inch per insertion. Discounts made on large contracts. Entered at the Post-office as second-class matter.

All letters, communications, and business matters should be addressed to

**THE COLORED AMERICAN,**  
EDWARD E. COOPER, MANAGER  
459 C Street Northwest.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1900.

### OUR WEEKLY TEXT.

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her; and happy is every one that retaineth her.—Proverbs III; 13, 17, 18.

### LESSONS OF THE TIMES

Recent events—among which the passage of the Virginia jim-crow car law is not the least significant—combine to teach the Negro a severe lesson. We must protect ourselves. The champions of race proscription and tyranny have got us on the run. We are making gains in many directions, and the future holds out much hope, but our flank is exposed to the enemy's fire, and our columns are in ragged form. We must organize—not for offense, but defense; not for aggression, but protection. We must give of our time and means to the uplifting of the race, and check the inroads daily being made upon our most sacred rights. One by one, our liberties are being destroyed, and restrictive laws are binding us hand and foot. The time has come to stop talking so much and resolving so frequently—and to act. Strong men must go to the front. Weaklings, pull-backs, trimmers, camp-followers and lickspittles are not wanted in places of responsibility. To the rear with them!

The Negro must make up his mind to stand by his friends wherever he can find them. He must have the courage to support men of liberal ideas and who are willing to accord to us an equal chance and fair play in our struggle for life—whether that man be of this political faith or that—whether he hails from the South or North. The Negro's enemies must be opposed, regardless of party or personal considerations. Let us know where every candidate stands upon the ever-present issue of human rights, before a ballot is cast for him. Let us make the issue clean-cut, and give our friends and foes a square chance to go on record. If they are with us

let us stick to them until the warmest place mentioned in sacred history freezes over, and finish up by skating on the ice. If they are against us—the consequences be upon their own heads. The lessons of the times are teaching all of us wisdom.

The game is up to the Negro. Shall we lead trumps or beg?

### THE CASE OF MR. ROBERTS.

It may be presumptuous for The Colored American to set its judgment against that of nearly three-fourths of the members of the national House of Representatives, but it is our opinion that they blundered egregiously in the case of Mr. Roberts. The adoption of the majority report favoring exclusion, was in accord with the blundering policy which characterized the anti-Roberts campaign from start to finish, and we believe that many saw the mistake, but deemed while popular clamor was so bitter against the Mormon, that it was safer to be consistent than just.

As we said at the outset of this controversy some weeks ago, we have no sympathy with polygamy, nor respect for polygamists, and Mr. Roberts' continued presence in the House would have been a menace to good morals. But every result should be accomplished in decency and in order, to the end that dangerous precedents may be avoided. In a government like ours, which we hope will last until the end of time, the interests of posterity cannot be too carefully guarded. In this particular case the correct result was reached but by the wrong method. Denying a seat in Congress to a regularly-elected citizen upon unproven charges is a practice that admits of untold outrage when prejudice runs high and majorities are narrow. A Negro might some day be turned away from the bar of the House by just such a precedent as the Roberts case established, and nothing could be done about it.

In short, Mr. Roberts should not have been excluded. He should have been sworn in on the first day. He was on the same footing as other members, by virtue of his credentials. He should have been seated; then duly tried, and upon conviction, expelled. The law presumes every man innocent until guilt is proven by credible evidence. Happily, Mr. Roberts is out, but he could have been put out by methods more in keeping with equity, legal form and prudent example. Expulsion not exclusion, was the course to have been adopted.

The Colored American makes up its mind on current issues, without waiting to see which is the popular side. We are for the right as God gives us to see the right, please or offend whom we may.

Sign one of the Brown anti-lynching petitions, and let Congress know that you want something done to put more ginger into the law, and more rigidity into the spines of those who are expected to enforce it.

The new Negro should see to it that drawing the color line in a Washington theater is made a costly operation to any one fool enough to undertake it.

The most effective method of convincing some people that a thing is wrong, is to make it unprofitable.

Those who cannot find any other excuse for a whack at Senator Beveridge are poking fun at his youthful appearance. There are a whole lot of fools who are not young men,

and the eloquent Hoosier may yet find it necessary to play the role of Pitt to some assinine Walpole, before the session is very old.

They raise other things besides corn and horses out in Kentucky.

People who "rubber" into domestic affairs are hunting trouble with a search light.

The Bishops are with us. Welcome, eminent prelates!

The time has come for the Negro to stop parleying—and lead "trumps."

The Boers seem to be able to take care of themselves in a scrimmage, sympathy or no sympathy.

Virginia has adopted a "Jim Crow" car law. Thus the slimy trail of race proscription drags its way northward. Will it be Maryland next?

The public are as deeply indebted to the thoughtful and discriminating editor for what he keeps out of his paper as for that which he puts in.

A word of encouragement goes a long way toward helping those who are struggling upward. Let a paper praise the average man, he is silent. Censure him, and he is in the office right away, mad as a hornet, raising the devil.

The fellow with the pencil and a mania for discovering compensatory influences in nature, finds that owing to the frequent lynchings in the South, the price of rope and hemp has materially advanced.

It may not be long before the very ground upon which the White House stands will be located in the heart of the "enemy's country"—as far as the Negro's rights are concerned.

The two great Methodist denominations will show wisdom by electing plenty of Bishops, and creating new departments. Commercial expansion has the call everywhere; why not religious expansion? Extend your boundaries, men of the Church!

The ancient lady who stakes her convictions on signs, predicts the election of six Bishops by the A. M. E. General Conference. Her list of winners runs something like this: M. M. Moore, H. T. Johnson, Evan Tyree, T. W. Henderson, L. J. Coppin, and H. B. Parks. This is a fine roster, but it may have to be revised.

Booker T. Washington has captured the Negro press of the country, by his pure life, useful work, energetic spirit and convincing logic. There isn't a reputable Negro journal in the land today not in perfect sympathy with Mr. Washington's great industrial propaganda. The Washington Bee is the latest convert.

The Kentucky tragedy is an indefensible illustration of politics run mad. Legal means are usually ample for remedying any evil, and if they are not, the people should proceed to strengthen the arm of the law. Force is destructive to the public weal, and the shooting of Goebel is a step toward civil war. Unless this mania for blood, and tendency toward mob violence and disorder is not checked, our republic will be found rushing toward the quicksands of anarchy and ruin. The time has come when the good men and good women of America, North and

South, black and white, must stand together. National morality is a platform broad enough for all classes of citizens to find a common footing.

### OUR "WOMAN'S WORLD" COLUMN.

With this issue of The Colored American, we begin the publication of a "Woman's Column." Edited by one of America's most brilliant women, known for literary purposes as "Euphemia Kirk," the department is bound to be a sparkling and effervescent contribution, and we are sure it will prove to be one of this paper's popular features. Miss Kirk will discuss all the "issues" and notions dear to the feminine heart, and she will throw out a great many shafts of genuine wisdom, so adroitly concealed by a chatty and vivacious garb, that the victim will never detect that she is being treated to a lecture. Miss Kirk opens her career auspiciously by taking the reader into her confidence, and confessing, without pressure that she knows it all, and therefore her representations may safely be taken without hunting up old encyclopedias or other musty literary tomes for a revivification. She calmly assumes the womanly right to have her own way, to do or think as her fancy wills, and to reach conclusions by any method that suits her convenience. The Colored American has the utmost respect for any member of the fair sex so constituted, and we bow to the inevitable promptly, for the ultimate result would be the same anyway. Miss Kirk appears to carry her facts with her, and if any body is looking for an argument, we know where we will place our money. She will prove a foeman worthy of the finest steel, and can take care of herself in the warmest company.

The Colored American advises its readers to confer with Euphemia Kirk when in doubt over any knotty problem. She is a woman among women, and can be depended upon.

"Buce Grit's" earnest and timely plea for "Money for the Council" published in last week's Colored American, should challenge the attention of every true race man in the country. The Afro-American Council is working along correct lines for the amelioration of our condition, and we should support its objects with our own means. Giving money to worthy movements is as essential to progress as making or saving. Read Bruce's letter over again, and send something to Mr. Hannon or Mr. Lawson at the Washington headquarters.

With the Bishopric boom of Rev. J. Albert Johnson formally launched, talk is revived as to his possible successor at the Metropolitan A. M. E. church. The fortune-tellers are saying that it lies between the two young men eloquent, John M. Henderson, of New York, and Reverdy C. Ransom, of Chicago. It is hinted that the one that isn't elected editor of the Christian Recorder will come to Washington.

### Serving a Double Purpose.

The Negro papers are doing a great service to the race aside from furnishing the news. They are opening up new avenues of profitable employment to young colored men and women. That they should be liberally supported goes without saying.—Wharton Elevator.

For the next 15 days the subscription price of The Colored American will be one dollar per year. Those who know a good thing when they see it will send in this amount by return mail.